Delay in implementation of Sankhya Vahini Project

5368. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh has expressed concern at the delay in implementing the Sankhya Vahini Project;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the bottenecks standing as impediments to the project and the steps taken/proposed to be taken to create expeditiously the high speed data network?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh has drawn attention to delay in signing of the Joint Venture agreement and other activities associated with the setting up of the project even after two months of approval by the Cabinet.

(c) There are no impediments as such. Both the Joint Venture agreement as well as the detailed project estimate which must precede actual commencement of the project work, are at various stages of processing.

Out of turn allotment of PCO/STD booths in Anisabad, Patna

†5369. SHRI SURYABHAN PATIL VAHADANE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total number of applications for PCO/STD booths laying pending in Anisabad Telephone Exchange, Patna since 1997;

(b) what are the reasons therefor and whether there is any provision of 'out of turn' allotment of the booths to the applicants under unemployed category;

(c) if so, what is the total number of applicants under unemployed category who have neen given 'Out of turn' allotment of booths since 1997;

(d) if not, what are the reasons therefor; and

(e) whether Government would consider any proposal for giving 'out of turn' allotment of booths to the applicants under the said category?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) Sir, 343 applications for allotment of PCO/STD booths are laying pending in Anisabad Telephone Exchange, Patna.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.